REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. These claims comply with the written description requirement and the specification provides enablement for the claims. It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in this art could prepare an imidazolium salt using other diimine compounds and other specifics than those explicitly set out in the specification. This rejection is mooted in part by amendment of claim 1 to add more specifics regarding ring closure conditions.

Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended claims 3 and 4 to moot this rejection (and has similarly amended claims 18-20).

Claims 1-12 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Arduengo et al. publication, Tetrahedron 1999, 55:14523-14534. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Arduengo's method makes use of $ClCH_2OEt$ (chloromethylethylether) and the present method as claimed makes use of paraformaldehyde. These are two different reagents which result in two drastically different results.

Arduengo states that its method is restricted to small-scale synthesis, and Arduengo's method leads to low yields of the salts. Arduengo's method is relatively crude and requires recrystallization in order to purify. The present invention as claimed in claims 1 and 18 leads to pure materials after simple filtration and drying - it is much simpler.

Claims 1-12 and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jafarpour et al. publication, J. of Organometallic Chemistry, 2000, 606:49-54. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The method of Jafarpour et al. requires heating at elevated temperatures for long periods of time. The present invention as claimed in claims 1 and 18 is a room temperature reaction which results in a product which can be obtained by simple filtration and collection, without requiring azeotropic distillation or recrystallization. It is much simpler than that of Jafarpour et al.

Claims 1-12 and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arduengo et al. publication, Tetrahedron, 1999, 55:14523-14534. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Arduengo et al. does not suggest using paraformaldehyde nor does it suggest conducting the method at room temperature, both of which limitations are now present in all claims. Therefore, Arduengo et al. does not render obvious the present invention.

Claims 1-12 and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jafarpour et al. publication, J. of Organometallic Chemistry, 2000, 606:49-54. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

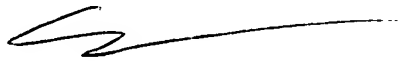
Jafarpour et al. discloses a more complicated method than that claimed. Jafarpour et al. does not suggest conducting the method at room temperature, a limitation now present in all claims. Therefore, Jafarpour et al. does not render obvious the present invention.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for any extension of time necessary to render this paper timely.

Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0694.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 20231, on August 9, 2005.

Seth M. Nehrbass

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